

# GAMEDAYGUIDE

www.kstatecollegian.com | Friday, October 14, 2011 | K-State vs. Texas Tech

## Could this be the week the Wildcat offense airs it out?

Mark Kern  
sports editor

It never seems to be pretty, but K-State always seems to do just enough to get that victory. Against the Missouri Tigers, the Wildcats were out-gained 326-286, but were able to make the plays they needed to at the critical times.

One of the biggest plays was a third-down conversion on a pass play from Collin Klein to Andre McDonald. Last year in the game against Missouri, the Wildcats were trailing 38-28 when they went for two to cut it down to a one-possession game. McDonald was wide open, but dropped the pass and the Wildcats ended up losing that game by 10.

This is a different season, and it is heartening to see the offense to make these big plays when the game is on the line. Missouri had all of the momentum in that game and if they had stopped the Wildcats there, who knows how the game would have ended.

The Wildcats will face a Texas Tech defense that ranks 114th in the country against the run, giving up over 224 yards per game. This should give the Wildcats the opportunity as running the ball is what they do best. However, it is not just the running backs or Collin Klein that is fully responsible for the great rushing attack. Coach Bill Snyder emphasizes that it takes great blocking to be an effective running team, especially from the wide receivers.

“That is a very difficult thing. It is the hardest thing they have to do. Not that catching the football is easy, but blocking out — it is kind of like tackling. Most teams tell you that the way the game is played today that if you do not tackle in space, then you are going to be really bad on defense, which is probably a pretty accurate assessment there,” Snyder said. “The same thing holds true offensively. If you are going to spread people out, you better block on the perimeter with your wide receivers.”

This has been the case as all of the receivers have been doing a good job of giving the backs opportunities to make plays once they get to the second level.

As good as the run game has been, the team knows for their offense to become truly special, they need to start hitting some big plays in the passing game. Wide receiver Chris Harper believes that offense has been close on occasions.

“Last week, me and Collin had a couple of opportunities to make the big play,” Harper said. “The first one he just missed me and on the second one he looked me off a little quicker than I would have liked, but we are getting close.”

Center BJ Finney agrees with Harper that they are close on hitting those big plays.

“We have been just an inch or one block away from making the big play,” Finney said. “We just have to make sure we do everything necessary so when the big play presents itself, then we will be able to convert the big play.”

With how bad Tech’s defense has



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

K-State sophomore running back John Hubert is leading the Wildcats with 469 rushing yards so far this season. Junior quarterback Collin Klein is right behind Hubert with 468 yards on the ground.

been at rushing the ball and how good the Wildcats have been at rushing the ball, most people probably expect the Wildcats to come out and run the ball a lot of time. While this will likely be

the case, if the Red Raiders worry too much about stopping running back John Hubert and the rushing attack, do not be surprised to see Klein and the offense take a couple of shots downfield

against what should be man coverage. This could be just what the offense needs to get the passing game going, and if that happens, then this offense could be a special one.

### BY THE NUMBERS

Key numbers to think of during Saturday’s game

**5**  
-the number of teams that are worse against the run than the Red Raiders  
Texas Tech has had major problems stopping the run. As that is the strength of their offense, this could be a good sign for the Wildcats. The Red Raiders give up an average of 224 yards per game on the ground. The defense is young and has been prone to giving up big plays against the run and the pass. This may be the game that K-State attacks downfield a little more, especially if the Wildcats are able to run the ball against this questionable run defense.

**6**  
-the ranking of the Texas Tech pass offense  
Texas Tech has long been known as a team that is going to pass the ball and pass it a lot. This year is no different, as the Red Raiders are averaging nearly 355 yards per game passing. This was with star running back Eric Stephens getting a lot of carries. With Stephens out for the year due to an injury, the Red Raiders might be forced to throw the ball even more. Nigel Malone and the rest of the secondary will have to be ready to play against this spread offense. Another key for the defense will be if the defensive line can get pressure on the quarterback against the Red Raider’s massive line.

**26**  
-the ranking of the K-State rushing attack  
As they have all season, the Wildcats are going to look to run the ball and control the clock. The team averages just under 220 yards per game rushing the ball and use it to open up their passing game. The two main ball carriers for the Wildcats have been John Hubert and Collin Klein. This should be the case again as the Wildcats go up against a defense that has had big problems stopping the run.

**66**  
-the number of points that Texas Tech scored last game against K-State  
The last time the Wildcats went down to Lubbock, Texas, the game got out of hand really quickly. The Red Raiders scored 66 points and quarterback Steve Sheffield threw for 490 yards and seven touchdowns. Quarterback Seth Doege has the talent and is more than capable of having a huge game, so it will be key for the Wildcats to keep playing great defense. It goes back again to the defensive line getting pressure on Doege. If the Wildcats are forced to guard the Texas Tech receivers for long periods of times, the Red Raiders might start putting points on the scoreboard at a rapid rate.

**91**  
-percent of passes that Seth Doege completed against New Mexico to set a record  
Earlier in the year, Doege completed 40 out of 44 passes in a blow out victory over the Lobos. New Mexico is not a powerhouse, but to complete that percentage is very hard to do. Doege is very accurate with his throws and looks to get the ball out of his hands very fast. Doege gets to stand behind a mammoth offensive line that gives him plenty of time. However, when pressured with the ball, Doege has a tendency to get happy feet and force some throws.

**593**  
-yards that Collin Klein has rushed for on the season  
Most teams are not led by their quarterbacks in rushing. Klein has been outstanding this year at rushing the ball. Klein has mastered the art of hiding the football from the defense until the last possible second. He gets a lot of his yards because the defensive players think that the running back is getting the ball and then Klein is gone before the defense knows who has it. Klein will once again be called upon to carry the load on offense, and if he can do what he has done all season, the Wildcats should be in great shape.

-Compiled by Mark Kern

## Wildcats’ defense, ranked No. 17, demands respect

Sean Frye  
staff writer

Last year, the K-State defense was laughable at best, finishing the season ranked 106th overall in total defense. It was a primary roadblock throughout the year. Those demons have been exorcised, though, as linebacker Arthur Brown and company have completely turned around the defense and made them one of the most feared in the country.

Now they want the respect they deserve for themselves and the rest of the team.

“We want respect,” said sophomore linebacker Tre Walker. “Any time someone doesn’t give you respect, that makes you want it even more, and you keep fighting for it until you get it.”

The Wildcats are currently ranked 17th in total defense so far this year, giving up just 298.8 yards per game. That is the highest mark of any Big 12 team. The closest Big 12 team to the Wildcats is the Texas Longhorns, who rank 24th overall and give up 321.8 yards per game.

“We want respect. Any time someone doesn’t give you respect, that makes you want it even more, and you keep fighting for it until you get it.”

Tre Walker  
sophomore linebacker

That is why the Wildcats have failed to figure out why they are the underdogs for the fourth straight week heading into Lubbock, Texas, to face the Texas Tech Red Raiders on Saturday.

Against the Miami Hurricanes, the Wildcats were seen as underdogs despite having a better record and the No. 1 ranked total defense in the country at the time. That prompted the defense to make the statement of the ages; a goal-line stand in the final minute of the game to prevent the Hurricanes from scoring a go-ahead touchdown that preserved a 28-24 win.

The following week against then-No. 15 Baylor, the Wildcats were also underdogs. After upsetting the Bears and being the first and, so far, only team to pick off Heisman Trophy candidate Robert Griffin III, the Wildcats were once again playing the role of underdog to a 2-2 Missouri team.

“Missouri gave us no respect at all,” said defensive back David Garrett. “They thought they were going to come in with an easy win.”

Now, after beating the Tigers 24-17, the Wildcats are once again predicted to lose this week against the 96th ranked total defense that also lost its star running back, Eric Stephens, to a season-ending ACL injury.

“We can’t do anything about what other people think,” Garrett said following the Missouri game. “We have to just come in and do what needs to be done. We can only control the team and the coaches that we have, who are doing a great job. We don’t



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

Junior defensive end Meshak Williams is congratulated by his teammates after making a big play earlier this season. The Wildcats are 5-0 and will travel to Lubbock, Texas to play the Texas Tech Red Raiders on Saturday.

have anything to lose, we just keep playing.”

Not everybody on the defense is as vocal about their desires to be respected as a threat. Arthur Brown, the team’s leading tackler with 38 on the year so far, is one of the more timid speakers on the team. The overall mood on the defense, though, is that they do want respect and they do want to be feared.

“Some people are more vocal about things than others,” head coach Bill

Snyder said. “I think all of our guys are competitive though.”

The attitude and energy of the defense has been one of the primary factors in the revolution from last year to this year. Brown and Walker are key leaders on the team, and the energy they exert has allowed the defense to grow throughout the course of the year.

“Our linebacking core, those guys are real spirited,” said wide receiver Chris Harper. “I don’t know where

they find the energy. As far as bringing the spirit to the team, they are the catalyst. The offense feeds off of them.”

K-State has two straight road tests ahead of them; Lubbock, Texas, this week, then Lawrence next week for the Sunflower Showdown against archrival KU. If the Wildcats can continue their success and walk away with victories in both those games, expect the amount of respect this defense gets to finally get where it needs to be.





# K-STATE VS. TEXAS TECH

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011 6PM  
**WHERE:** JONES AT&T STADIUM, LUBBOCK TEXAS  
**TELEVISION:** FSN



# MATCHING UP

## K-STATE RUSH OFFENSE VS. TEXAS TECH RUSH DEFENSE

The key to success for Texas Tech in taking on the Wildcats will rest on the shoulders of their defensive line. For the Red Raiders, stopping the run has been an issue all season, and with K-State bringing in the 26th ranked rushing offense in the nation, the Wildcats will likely keep that trend going for Texas Tech. Quarterback Collin Klein and running back John Hubert have managed to combine for an average of over 200 yards on the ground this season, a statistic that is sure to stand out to Texas Tech going into Saturday's contest.

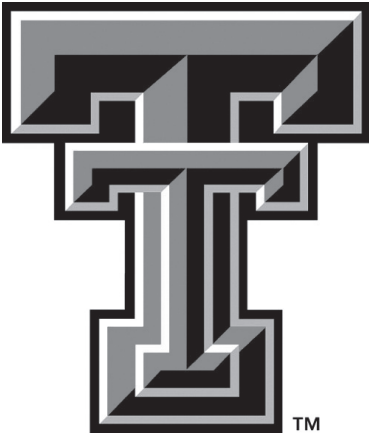
**ADVANTAGE: K-STATE**



## TEXAS TECH PASS OFFENSE VS. K-STATE PASS DEFENSE

Led by junior quarterback Seth Doege, the Red Raiders are yet another potent passing offense. Doege has an arsenal of receivers to choose from, with six catching over 100 yards after five games. However, it is junior wideout Darrin Moore that has been Doege's go-to guy this season with a 113-yard average per game. K-State's secondary is coming off of its third straight test against skilled passing teams and has proven it is capable of doing an adequate job. Though Texas Tech may not be on the same level of Baylor or Missouri offensively, it has put up 35 points or more on each of its opponents this season, largely due to the passing game.

**ADVANTAGE: TEXAS TECH**



## TEXAS TECH RUSH OFFENSE VS. K-STATE RUSH DEFENSE

Last week against Texas A&M the Red Raiders lost starting running back Eric Stephens to a knee injury in the third quarter. Stephens has been the leading rusher for Texas Tech each game, with just under 600 yards to his name. Senior Aaron Crawford is expected to take the starting role against the Wildcats, but only has only put up 30 yards in their first five games. Defensively, K-State ranks 16th in the nation against the run and will now face an offense with no proven threat on the ground. Texas Tech will be forced to put the ball in the air more frequently, which has been the Red Raiders' forte this season.

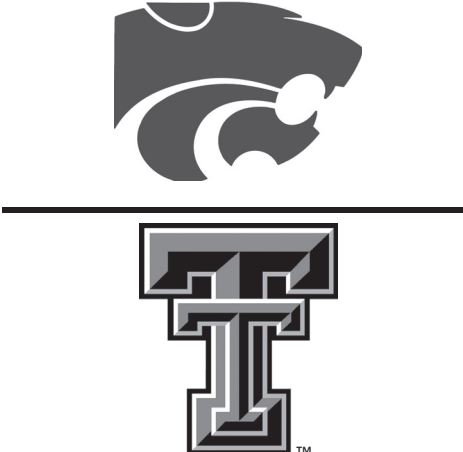
**ADVANTAGE: K-STATE**



## K-STATE SPECIAL TEAMS VS. TEXAS TECH SPECIAL TEAMS

Once again the special teams match-up for K-State remains fairly balanced with their opponent. Kicker Anthony Cantele has gained more confidence kicking field goals as the season has progressed and is now at eight completions on 11 attempts. While Cantele continues his struggle to find the end zone on kickoffs, the coverage team for the Wildcats has shown its ability to get downfield and force short returns. Texas Tech kicker Donnie Carona has put up similar numbers as Cantele and is nine of 12 on the season kicking field goals and averages over 65 yards per kick-off, on top of excellent support from the coverage unit. On paper, it would appear that neither team will allow the other much success on special teams.

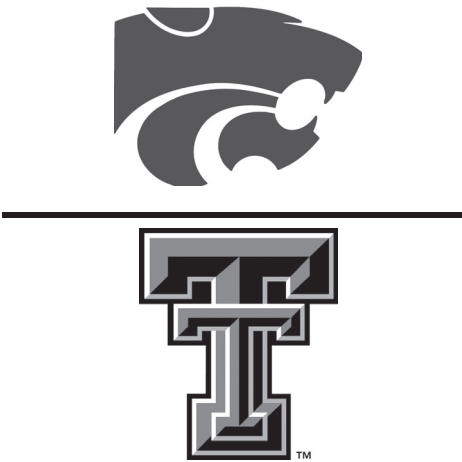
**ADVANTAGE: NEITHER**



## K-STATE PASS OFFENSE VS. TEXAS TECH PASS DEFENSE

As each game passes, the Wildcats continue to put up mediocre numbers through the air. Averaging only 127 pass yards per game, K-State would appear to be almost completely based around the run, until one notices that the rushing average isn't even 100 yards greater. This balance on offense has been crucial for the Wildcats so far by keeping opposing defenses honest against both the run and pass. However, Texas Tech is strongest on defense defending the pass and is led in tackling by defensive backs Cody Davis and DJ Johnson. The Red Raiders secondary has allowed opponents an average of 193 yards through the air and only six passing touchdowns. Statistically, this facet of the game looks to be a stalemate for both teams.

**ADVANTAGE: NEITHER**



## INTANGIBLES

The Wildcats will roll into Lubbock, Texas on Saturday with incredible confidence after a 5-0 start. To add fuel to the fire, K-State will once again play the role of the underdog. Though Texas Tech has looked more impressive than it has been given credit for, the Wildcats have a much bigger chip on their shoulder. After being tested already by Miami, Baylor and Missouri, K-State will look to show once again that its success is has not been a fluke.

**ADVANTAGE: K-STATE**



FINAL SCORE PREDICTION: 35-21 K-STATE

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GAMEDAYGUIDE

Week 6 games to watch: Rivalries renewed across the country

Mark Kern  
assistant sports editor



The teams will come into this top 25 clash on complete opposite sides of the spectrum. The Cowboys will come into the game undefeated after a 70-28 drubbing of the Kansas Jayhawks. In that game, quarterback Brandon Weeden threw for five touchdowns and was pulled late in the second quarter. The Cowboys will look to continue this roll as they travel to Austin, Texas to face the Longhorns. Texas is looking to rebound after a 55-17 loss to the Oklahoma Sooners. The Sooners defense scored three touchdowns and never allowed the Longhorns to be in the game. The Longhorns offense must play better if they are going to be able to hang with Oklahoma State because the Cowboys are going to put points on the board.



This game will feature two explosive offenses matching up against two mediocre defenses at best. The Bears will look to avenge a loss at the hands of the Aggies last year. Quarterback Robert Griffin III has been outstanding this year as he is completing over 80 percent of his passes and has thrown 20 touchdowns on the season. Expect Griffin and the rest of the Baylor offense to be able to score against the Texas A&M defense. Texas A&M got back on the winning streak with a 45-40 victory in Lubbock, Texas over the Texas Tech Red Raiders. The Aggies offense is equally explosive as Ryan Tannehill, Cyrus Gray and Jeff Fuller form one of the best trios in the country. The key to this game will be which defense is able to make a couple of stops.



MICHIGAN @ MICHIGAN STATE

This inner-state rivalry is always a big game and this year is no different. Both teams enter the game undefeated in Big Ten play. Michigan is undefeated on the season and led by quarterback Denard Robinson. Robinson is always capable of scoring a touchdown on any play, so he will be the focal point of the Michigan State defense. If there is a flaw with Robinson, it has been that he has been turnover-prone. Michigan State will enter the game with the number one defense in the country, only giving up 173.4 yards per game. The Spartans will look to continue this great play on defense if they are going to be able to stop the Michigan offense. Kirk Cousins teams up with BJ Cunningham to give the offense some firepower to go along with a good running game. The Spartans have won the last four games against Michigan after being referred to as the "little brother," according to former Michigan running back Mike Hart. Both teams will be ready for this rivalry game.



In a potential preview of the Pac-12 championship game, the Ducks may be going into this game without their Heisman Trophy running back LaMichael James. James dislocated his elbow in the 43-15 victory last Thursday over the California Golden Bears. If he is unable to go, Kenjon Barner and DeAnthony Thomas will be called upon to keep the Ducks' explosive offense going. Since the disappointing performance in a loss to Illinois, the Sun Devils have played much better football. Arizona State is led by an outstanding defense that will look to slow down the Oregon Ducks. This game has the potential to be the game of the night. Quarterback Brock Osweiler will be a key for Arizona State to put points on the board to keep up with Oregon.




In a role reversal from previous years, Ohio State is going to Illinois as the underdog trying to salvage their season against the undefeated and nationally ranked team. Ohio State looked great for two and a half quarters against Nebraska as they got out to a 27-6 lead on Nebraska. However, quarterback Braxton Miller got hurt and the Buckeyes just fell apart. Miller is expected to go on Saturday and should give the Buckeye offense a spark. The Fighting Illini have been the surprise of the country as they have gotten off to a 6-0 start. Illinois is led by quarterback Nathan Scheelhaase and wide receiver AJ Jenkins. The duo has given Illinois a dynamic duo to complement a solid defense. The Buckeyes have the talent to go and upset Illinois. Illinois is a young team that has not been in the situation of being the hunted, and it will be interesting to see how they handle the pressure.

Week 6 AP Top 25 Poll

| RK | TEAM           | RECORD | PVS |
|----|----------------|--------|-----|
| 1  | LSU            | 6-0    | 1   |
| 2  | ALABAMA        | 6-0    | 2   |
| 3  | OKLAHOMA       | 5-0    | 3   |
| 4  | WISCONSIN      | 5-0    | 4   |
| 5  | BOISE STATE    | 5-0    | 5   |
| 6  | OKLAHOMA STATE | 5-0    | 6   |
| 7  | STANFORD       | 5-0    | 7   |
| 8  | CLEMSON        | 6-0    | 8   |
| 9  | OREGON         | 4-1    | 9   |
| 10 | ARKANSAS       | 5-1    | 10  |
| 11 | MICHIGAN       | 6-0    | 12  |
| 12 | GEORGIA TECH   | 6-0    | 13  |
| 13 | WEST VIRGINIA  | 5-1    | 16  |
| 14 | NEBRASKA       | 5-1    | 14  |
| 15 | SOUTH CAROLINA | 5-1    | 18  |
| 16 | ILLINOIS       | 6-0    | 19  |
| 17 | KANSAS STATE   | 5-0    | 20  |
| 18 | ARIZONA STATE  | 5-1    | 22  |
| 19 | VIRGINIA TECH  | 5-1    | 21  |
| 20 | BAYLOR         | 4-1    | 25  |
| 21 | TEXAS A&M      | 3-2    | 24  |
| 22 | TEXAS          | 4-1    | 11  |
| 23 | MICHIGAN STATE | 4-1    | NR  |
| 24 | AUBURN         | 4-2    | 15  |
| 25 | HOUSTON        | 6-0    | NR  |


COLLEGIAN STAFF PICK 'EM

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Baylor  
Oregon  
MSU  
Ohio St.  
K-State




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GAMEDAYGUIDE

# Kern’s Heisman watch: competition shapes up in week 6

Mark Kern  
assistant sports editor



1. RUSSELL WILSON, WISCONSIN QB -

Wilson was off last week but will look to continue his outstanding start to the season. The transfer from North Carolina State has thrown for 13 touchdowns on the season to go along with only one interception. The main thing that Wilson has brought to the team is the ability to mix in a dangerous passing game along with a dominating rushing attack. The Badgers will be in action on Saturday as they take on the Indiana Hoosiers.



2. ROBERT GRIFFIN, BAYLOR QB -

Griffin bounced back against Iowa State after the heartbreaking loss to K-State. Griffin accounted for 319 yards and three touchdowns in the 49-26 victory last Saturday. On the year, Griffin leads the country in passing efficiency to go along with 20 touchdowns. After losing that first road test to K-State, Griffin gets another chance to get that marquee victory as Baylor goes to College Station, Texas, to take on the Aggies of Texas A&M. With a win and a great performance, you might just see Robert Griffin atop the Heisman Trophy watch.



3. ANDREW LUCK, STANFORD QB -

Luck has been overlooked compared to the other candidates not because of bad play, but because the others have been able to showcase their talents more often. Luck entered the season as the prohibitive favorite Heisman candidate and still has plenty of opportunities against Oregon, Notre Dame and USC to boost his statistics. If Stanford is able to run the table and not lose a game, it will be hard to not give the trophy to Luck.



4. TYRANN MATHIEU, LSU CB -

Only once since 1950 has a defensive player won the award, and that was Charles Woodson at Michigan in 1998. However, with Mathieu's ability to make big plays, this could be the year a

defensive player wins the award. Mathieu has already set the school record for forced fumbles in a career at LSU, and that is only having played 18 games. With big games against Alabama, Auburn and Arkansas looming, Matheiu is going to have many opportunities to showcase his skills.



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A look at the city of Lubbock, Texas: popular places to eat, drink



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. Lubbock is highlighted on map.

Corbin Macguire  
staff writer

K-State will take its 5-0 record to Lubbock, Texas on Saturday to face the Texas Tech Red Raiders who ironically have beaten the Wildcats the last five times they have played. While the Wildcats try to forget about the past losses, fans should know a little history about the city of Lubbock.

According to the official city website of Lubbock, Texas, Lubbock was named after Thomas S. Lubbock, a former Texas Ranger and Confederate officer during the Civil War. The city is located in the northwestern part of the state, a region known historically as the Llano Estacado, and the home of Texas Tech University and Lubbock Christian University. The city, which had a population of 229,573 in the 2010 census, was not officially formed until March 16, 1909. The formation of Lubbock was the result of two settlements within the county, Old Lubbock and Monterey, combining to form the Lubbock that people know today.

The railroads were a huge factor in the growth of Lubbock and railroads continuously expanded as the agriculture continued to grow within the region. Lubbock eventually earned the nickname “Hub of the Plains” for its rapid growth.

The opening of Texas Technological College in 1925 boosted the city’s economy and population growth when the railroad’s effect peaked. Texas Technological College formally became Texas Tech University on September 1, 1969, by action of the Texas State Legislature.

Lubbock bounced back from the Great Depression when two military training bases opened during World War II. The city saw an immense population growth after the war. In the 1940s, Lubbock’s rate of growth was ranked second nationally only to Albuquerque, N.M.

Fans traveling to the game will most likely drive by the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, a memorial building that came as a result of Lubbock’s worst natural disaster on May 11, 1970. A tornado, considered to be one of the strongest in history, killed 26 people and caused \$135 million in damage while ripping up three square miles of the city.

Lubbock bounced back from the devastating tornado and continues to grow, still relying on the extensive agricultural industry of the area and also the variety of manufacturing facilities.

If you are going to the game on Saturday and are looking for a couple of good places to eat in Lubbock, according to Texas Tech fans on Twitter, some of the most popular places were Nick’s Sports Grill and Lounge, The Gaslight and Cujó’s Sportz Bar.

Nick’s Sports Grill and Lounge, which is located at 98th and Quaker across from Market Street, was the clear favorite. At Nick’s, you can have one of the towns most popular pizzas. Smoking is prohibited, which makes it a popular place to take the family. If you are looking for something a little different, then The Gaslight may be the place for you.

The Gaslight offers great appetizers such as chips and white queso and also their famous stuffed jalapenos. The atmosphere is exciting and the televisions are set up to allow patrons to watch multiple games at once. If you are still looking for something different, gopowercat.com’s own D. Scott recommends Cujó’s Sportz Bar.

Cujó’s is owned by former Texas Tech football player Curtis Jordan. The favorite is the Garlic Peppercorn Burger with a frosty Budweiser, for anybody of age of course.

Lubbock is a city with a unique history, but on Sunday, the focus will be on the football stadium as the Wildcats look to improve their record to 6-0.

A tall order: at 5’8” David Garrett sizes up the competition

Sean Frye  
staff writer

K-State has a decorated history of players that fit the mold of the “little engine that could.” Quarterback Ell Roberson, running backs Darren Sproles and Rock Cartwright and wide receiver/ kick returner Brandon Banks — all of those players have been on the shorter end of the height spectrum but have had huge impacts for the Wildcats.

This holds true for defensive back David Garrett this year. Listed at 5-foot-8 and only 175 pounds, Garrett is consistently one of the smallest players on the field. That has not stopped him from chasing down wide receivers and running backs that, at times, have eight inches and 70 pounds on him, becoming the Wildcats’ second leading tackler, and arguably being the player who commands the most respect for himself and for his entire team.

So far this year, Garrett has been given plenty of opportunity to prove himself on the field. He is second on the team with 28 tackles, trailing only Arthur Brown who has 38 on the year. His lone interception on the year sparked the Wildcats early in the game against Kent State when he returned the ball for a touchdown. That spark has seemingly not faded since that interception.

“We come to play every day and every week,” Garrett said.

It simply is not easy to be 5-foot-8 and have an impact in the Big 12 as a defensive player. Nearly all 21 other players on the field have either a height and/or a weight advantage over Garrett. However, Garrett’s mindset and strategy on plays has allowed him to make an impact.

“With a bigger player that is running with the ball, I just try to get to him before he gets going,” Garrett said. “The position that I play gets me around the ball. The coaches have a lot of confidence in me and I respect them for having that confidence.”

While his statistics and influence on the field are noticed by the fans and media, his attitude with his teammates and his coaching staff is really what catches the eye behind the scenes.

“David, he’s one of those guys that defines who we are as a team,” said wide receiver Chris Harper. “He’s not a huge guy but he’s one of the toughest dudes on the team. He’s one of our leaders coming back and he defines that kind of toughness that we have.”

Garrett’s toughness is evident with his numbers and his



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K-State senior defensive back, David Garrett, right, returns a kick against Eastern Kentucky during the first game of the 2011 season. Garrett is one of the leaders on the Wildcats defense this season, which is ranked 15th in the nation in scoring defense.

ability to make plays despite his height. However, another aspect to Garrett’s persona is his constant demanding of respect for his team from the fans and the media.

“We haven’t been getting any respect at all,” Garrett said following his team’s victory over Missouri, where the Wildcats were the underdogs despite being ranked and un-

defeated. “You take that and build on it. I’ve been playing with a chip on my shoulder all my life with my height, but now my team is getting disrespected.”

Head coach Bill Snyder is among Garrett’s biggest supporters, as he appreciates everything the defensive back brings to the table.

“I like his competitive spirit. I think that’s what makes David a very, very fine player,” Snyder said. “He’s a tough player, he plays hard. He’s a tough young guy playing and putting himself in a position to be able to be effective. At that size, that is a tribute to his competitive spirit.”

The Wildcats are once again the predicted underdogs

going into Lubbock, Texas to face the Texas Tech Red Raiders this week. With the Wildcats being undefeated and chasing a Big 12 title, expect Garrett to once again rise above the competition, metaphorically of course.

“We can’t do anything about what other people think,” Garrett said. “We have to just come in and do what needs to be done. We can only control the team and the coaches that we have, who are doing a great job. We don’t have anything to lose, we just keep playing.”

“I like his competitive spirit. I think that’s what makes David a very, very fine player. He’s a tough player, he plays hard. He’s a tough young guy playing and putting himself in a position to be able to be effective. At that size, that is a tribute to his competitive spirit.”

Bill Snyder  
Head coach

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